

News and Information

from the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs

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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES CONSUMER EDUCATION INITIATIVE DURING TENNESSEE CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK

The Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs, in conjunction with Governor Sundquist's Families First welfare reform program and the Federal Trade Commission, is launching a new initiative titled Project DETER. Project DETER (Deterring Educational, Training and Employment Rackets) is aimed at combating scams which target people who are moving from welfare to the work force.

"I am pleased to proclaim the week of February 1-7 to be Tennessee Consumer Protection Week. The initiative launched this week is a long term commitment by the State to the Families First customers," said Governor Sundquist.

The project's goals are to educate those receiving public assistance, as well as Families First counselors, about potential employment-related scams.

"We are very excited about partnering with the Department of Human Services," said Mark Williams, Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs. "Families First customers face many hurdles in their transition from welfare to the work force, and we hope the information provided by DETER will better equip them to make that transition."

The division plans to meet with Families First participants in Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis during Consumer Protection Week in order to disseminate consumer education materials targeting Families First customers. After Consumer Protection Week, the divisions will continue the project throughout the State.